

Hampstead War Memorial

Located on Main Street in the Center of Hampstead, Md.

The War Memorial Association, in conjunction with the American Legion and the Rotary International have been instrumental in organizing the festivities for the dedication of the War Memorial in Hampstead.

On November 1, 1947, dedication was held for the new War Memorial in front of the Hampstead High School on Main Street in Hampstead, Md. The dedication was very well attended and there were many speakers there. Among them were Senator Tydings, (who had just returned from making an extensive survey of the devastated and impoverished countries in Europe after the war), Former Mayor of Baltimore, Theodore R. McKelden, Samuel Jenness, superintendent of Carroll County Schools, Commanding officers or their alternates representing the Army, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard branches of the service, United States Senator George L. Radcliff, Howard S. LeRoy, Governor of the 180th District of Rotary International, and Jack Tribby, State Adjutant of the American Legion.

At this dedication, a bronze plaque was presented with 383 names of veterans from WWI and WWII and attached to the stone memorial wall. The \$6,000 wall was built with funds collected by the War Memorial Association of Hampstead, The American Legion Post 200, and the local Rotary Club. Mr. George Bollinger, a stone mason laid the cornerstone as part of the ceremonies.

The festivities opened to a crowd of about 500 people at 2 pm with a parade beginning at the south end of town, then came up to the north end of town and back down to the center of town in front of the school. Ten Army P-47 fighter planes from the 104th Fighter Squadron, the Maryland National Guard, commanded by Lt. Col. Robert L. Gould and based at the Baltimore Municipal Airport circled overhead in salute to the marchers, who paraded to music furnished by the 307th Army Band from Aberdeen, the Alesia Band and the American Legion Band. Among those marching were units from the Army, Navy, Coast Guard and the Marines along with units from civic, fraternal and veterans organizations.

During the dedication ceremony, Senator Tydings declared that "we must keep our nation strong on land, sea and air. Never, never, never will there be the luxury of time to get ready; for war will strike here if it comes again. Unless we dedicate ourselves to the cause of peace, we will be back here again 30 years from now."

Following an invocation by Rev. Nevin E. Smith of Hanover, Pa., Theodore R. McKelden, former mayor of Baltimore, in a welcoming address urged his listeners to remember the country's heroes and to keep America's military defense strong.

In a dramatic scene, two nurses wearing Red Cross nurses' uniforms marched from the steps of the high school through an arch of flags to place two wreaths at the base of the stone monument. The flags representing the colors of every member of the United Nations were borne by color guards who lined up behind the speaker's platform, providing an International backdrop to the ceremonies.

Samuel N. Jenness, superintendent of Carroll County Public Schools, accepted the memorial in behalf of the school board.

John Elseroad of American Legion Post 299 was master of ceremonies. Colonel Simpson R. Daugherty, an Army chaplain from Carlisle, Pa. gave the benediction.

New Hampstead War Memorial Unveiled

In 1989, the dedication of the new War Memorial and plaques was held. About 500 plus people were present. The memorial is located in front of the old Hampstead School and 4 flag poles with the flags of the United States, Maryland, Carroll County and Hampstead wave as part of the new monument.

Behind the flags sits a stone wall with three large bronze plaques with names of soldiers from WWI and WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. 1,130 names of veterans have been added to the memorial.

The old memorial, which was located in the same place but was in disrepair, was torn down. It was smaller and had fewer names. This project was constructed to include names from the Vietnam and Korean Wars as well as to add names from the World Wars.

With construction headed by carpenter, John Lang, time, materials and services were all donated, however the original estimated cost was to be more than \$35,000.

The latest Addition to the War Memorial

On Veteran's Day, November 11, 2012 a new plaque was dedicated with 46 more names of those not previously added from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon/Grenada War, Panama War, the Gulf War and the War on Terrorism.

Gold Star Mother/Member Plaque Added

On May 7, 2016 a new plaque honoring Gold Star Mothers/Members was added to the War Memorial. Ten families were present representing their lost loved ones.

The War Memorial is maintained by the Hampstead American Legion Post 200 as well as the Town of Hampstead. The white concrete cap has been restored to its bright luster. At Christmas time, one of the trees in the background is lit with red, white and blue lights to honor those loved ones who fought for our freedom. As of today, there are 1,559 names on our War Memorial.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elinore P.Frush
Historian for Hampstead American Legion Auxiliary Unit 200
February 21, 2017